



Utah Youth Summit

FEBRUARY
2004

Monthly update
to the Youth
Action Council
and Youth
Service Teams

THE YACKITY-YAC

SERVICE PROJECT TIPS - GETTING STARTED

For volunteers, community organizations, and others, a one-day service project can be a fantastic and transforming experience-or it can fall well short of that goal. A lot has to do with the way the day is planned. Your job is to make it a positive experience for everyone. The following tips will help you succeed at that task:

Set Realistic Goals

Volunteers and partners feel better about giving their time and resources when they see results. Remember, quality counts more than quantity: a small service project that gets things done is better than a poorly run, large-scale project.

Start Early

Make sure that you allow ample time to develop, organize and carry out your project. Come up with timelines and stick to them. Make a checklist of everything you need to do.

Build Partnerships

A service project is a great way to introduce your organization and your mission to potential partners and sponsors. Schools, area businesses, congregations and local government agencies make natural partners. So do volunteer centers, national service programs and local service clubs. By joining with others, you'll increase the size and impact of your project.

Involve your Partners

Partners, sponsors and members of the community should be included in the planning and implementation of your project from the start. Don't just ask for their time, money or products--seek their input. Be sure to involve young people in this process. Make sure you clearly define responsibilities and roles. Spread the work-and the fun-among your partners.

Actively Recruit Volunteers

Volunteers don't just show up-you need to put in the effort. Your partners are good sources of volunteers, as are local congregations, schools, businesses and community groups. Be sure to sign people up in advance and keep in touch with them.

Choose Projects Carefully

Try to accomplish something meaningful to the community. If your project is important to your community, potential partners, volunteers and sponsors will want to help. Try to tackle projects that would not get done without the added energy of volunteers.

Be Flexible

Choose a project that can easily be scaled up or down, depending on the number of volunteers you are able to attract. Have a contingency plan for a low volunteer turnout, and one for excess volunteers.

Anticipate Transportation Needs

Transportation can be a logistical challenge, especially if you have to shuttle volunteers between sites. The

kind of transportation you use-buses, vans, carpools, public transportation-will depend on several factors, including your budget, the number of volunteers, and the distance they need to travel. Be sure to ask local churches or schools if they will lend you their vans or buses, which may not be in use on a holiday or weekend.

Reach Out to the Media

If you are planning a large project, advance coverage in local media outlets will draw attention to your event and attract additional volunteers. Media coverage the day of the event can heighten volunteer pride and ensure the success of future projects.

Adapted from : <http://www.mlkday.org/projecttips.html>

**"Service is the rent we pay to be living. It is the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time."
-Marian Wright Edelman**



The Yackity-YAC is published by the Utah Commission on Volunteers. Individuals who receive the YAC are asked to share the newsletter with others who are interested in youth service and volunteerism in Utah. For more information contact Kristi at (888)755-UTAH or yes@utahspromise.org.



SERVICE AROUND UTAH

OUTLOOK ON REGIONAL YOUTH SUMMITS

Southern Region

--Summit is scheduled for June 3-5, to be held in St. George. Applications for youth participants will be distributed through Volunteer Centers. Youth ages 15-18 will be invited, with the requirement that each attendee has completed 10 hours of service in the past year. There will be a \$15 fee per attendee. Planning to have 250 youth in attendance.

--Theme is STAR: Stand Tall and Reach. Some workshops and activities include Youthline, Rotary, Youth Court, a dance and talent show. Plan to present Presidential citations.

--Service project ideas include nursing homes, clean-ups. Probably five different sites for projects.

Eastern Region

--One-day event scheduled for May 8, to be held in Monticello.

--Theme is SLASH: Serve Like a Super Hero. 100 Participants will be invited from eleven junior high schools. Planning to have 100 youth in attendance.

--Still generating ideas for workshops, speakers, and service projects.

Utah/Wasatch Region

--Event scheduled for May 1, in connection with Join Hands Day, to be held in Provo.

--100 high school-age youth will be invited through schools, 4-H and youth city governments.

--Service projects will have a literacy focus (ie. assembling literacy kits, cleaning books, reading to children)

Salt Lake Region

--Event is scheduled April 16-17, in conjunction with 4-H Leadermete training in Salt Lake City.

--Theme is Pay it Forward. They will be running the teen track, with workshops including teamwork and communication.

--Planning to have 150 youth in attendance. Inviting youth through 4-H and others, with Get Up and Go funding available for scholarships to low-income youth.

--Service projects will be literacy related.

Northern Region

--Event is scheduled for May 1, in connection with Join Hands Day, to be held in Cache Valley, at the middle or high schools.

--Focusing on youth and adult partnerships.

--Service project ideas include a spring clean up.

--Held their first YES (Youth Engaged in Service) coalition meeting on January 31. The coalition will be assisting in planning the summit.

2004 UTAH YOUTH SUMMIT

The Utah Commission on Volunteers and Utah State 4-H are pleased to announce the Sixth Annual Utah Youth Summit to be held Thursday, October 28 - Saturday, October 30, 2004.

This three-day retreat is designed to teach individuals from around the state the skills to be effectively engaged in their communities. It will focus on creating youth-adult partnerships, identifying community needs and resources, leadership skills, promoting youth voices, fostering individual commitments to lifelong service, and involvement in community youth service teams.

In preparation for the Youth Summit, a Steering Committee consisting of four youth and two adults must be established. We invite you to apply to become part of this innovative planning team.

Applications are available at www.volunteers.utah.gov and www.utah4-H.org. Completed applications must be received by Monday, March 15, 2004 to be considered and reviewed by the selection committee. All applicants will be notified of their acceptance no later than April 1, 2004.

For more information, feel free to contact Lauralee Lyons at the Utah State 4-H Office, toll free at (888) 4HYOUTH, or at (435) 797-8444, or via e-mail at llyons@ext.usu.edu.

YOUTH SERVICE UTAH AWARD

Youth Service Utah Awards honor youth who have performed outstanding service in their communities and are making a positive impact in their local areas.

Award categories include: individual youth, ages 14 and younger ; individual youth, ages 15-18; and youth group.

Individuals and groups nominated should demonstrate a lasting commitment to service and volunteerism in their community.

Nomination forms are available online at <http://volunteers.utah.gov/youthservicentab>.

Nominations must be received by March 1, 2004.

FUNDING FOR REGIONAL SUMMITS AVAILABLE NOW

The Utah Commission on Volunteers announces the availability of \$500 mini-grants. This funding is available to youth service teams to assist them in the planning and implementation of Regional Youth Summits.

The application deadline is February 23, 2004. Only one application per region will be accepted. Application forms are available by contacting Kristi at yes@utahspromise.org.